



Food Waste Management and Composting on a College Campus

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May 17, 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Outline

- Why college campus food management works
- Where we are now
- How we got here
- Where we go from here



The college campus compost recipe

Land Grant = LAND, ANIMALS

+ University = STUDENTS, RESEARCH

+ Facilities Dept = EQUIPMENT, TREES

+ Dining = ALL-YOU-CARE-TO-EAT



Where composting is now

35 Regular Food
Collection locations
+ Events
+ 3 dump trailers for
manure
+ 7,000 trees
= 1,372 tons of
material composted



The college campus food recovery recipe

Large venues, events, and storefronts

- + Heightened sense of awareness
- + Food insecurity among students themselves
- + Service hour requirements
- + Social group



Where food recovery is now

Football games:

- Skyboxes
- Concessions

+ Restaurants/Stores

+ Catered Events

= 18,526 pounds of food
donated to area non-
profits since July 2017



Compost timeline

- 2001- Leaves
- 2005- Coffee Grounds
- 2010- Student intern, current compost site
- 2010- Pre-consumer food scraps
- 2010- Post-consumer food scraps from events
- 2011- Wood chips (storm)
- 2011- All-you-can-eat post-consumer scraps
- 2011- Bobcat Skid Steer- Green Fee
- 2012- Shaker Screen- Plant Sci. Dept.
- 2013- Manure/bedding, trailer
- 2015- Zero Waste AmeriCorps member
- 2016- Dump bed + Cart Tipper
- 2016- Paper Towel composting
- 2017- Full-time dedicated compost site operator
- 2017- Trackhoe- Green Fee



Food donations timeline

- 2013- Concessions Manager donating food from Athletic Events
- 2014- Food Recovery Network (FRN) student group
- 2015- FRN recovering food from campus convenience stores
- 2017- Full-Time AmeriCorps VISTA Food Systems Coordinator



Compost future?

- ☐ Hand Dryers to replace paper towels
- ☐ Kitchen/Break Room composting
- ☐ Compostable materials in concessions and to-go dining locations
- ☐ Zero Waste Policy
- ☐ Compost containers everywhere



Food donation future?

- ☐ Campus garden to donate produce
- ☐ Local food pantries collecting material directly
- ☐ Food donations from regular dining facilities- Food Donation Connection
- ☐ Create an app or group to notify students of leftovers from events
- ☐ Permanent campus home for food pantry & free store



Questions?

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